

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB705, Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Living without health insurance can bring significant debt, worse health outcomes, and costly emergency department care. I'd like my neighbors to have the security of health insurance – no matter their immigration status. Over 275,000 undocumented immigrants in Maryland are currently ineligible for care through the Maryland Health Exchange. These Marylanders live and work in our state, contribute to our local economy and the fabric of our communities, and are unable to purchase their own health coverage through the Maryland Health Exchange. This bill has zero economic costs to the state, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) can submit the waiver application with existing resources.

Our state and communities become stronger and more resilient when we expand health care coverage. Benefits of expanded coverage include:

- Increased access to primary care physicians that results in earlier detection of health problems and more stable long-term management of chronic diseases;
- Reduced use of emergency departments (ED); this decreases the number seeking care at EDs and reduces the cost of ED care for all of us.

Living without health insurance coverage can be incredibly stressful – and ultimately, expensive for all of us who cover ED costs and other emergency care.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB705, Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely

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Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore